

phoneme, the character having a name including the phoneme; and

a target window positioned in the body, the target window being configured to display a target;

wherein the plurality of selectors are configured to be adjustable by a user to spell a name of the target

wherein the pronunciation symbol instructs a user how to pronounce the letter as the letter is positioned in the name of the target.

2. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 1, wherein each selector is wheel-shaped.

5. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 4, wherein the selection pane is adapted to enable a user to view a selected character, a selected pronunciation symbol and/or a selected letter of the phoneme selector.

7. (Amended) A language learning system, comprising:
a set of characters, each character being associated with a predetermined phoneme of a language, and having a character name including the phoneme; and
a learning device configured to display at least one of the characters along with an associated letter and pronunciation symbol corresponding to the phoneme, wherein the pronunciation symbol is separate from the letter and instructs a user how to pronounce the letter as the letter is positioned in the name of each character.

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8. (Amended) The language learning system of claim ¹8, wherein each character and associated pronunciation symbol and letter are arranged radially on one of a plurality of character regions on the wheel.

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12. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 11, wherein the letter and pronunciation symbol are positioned on a first side of the block adjacent a second side of the block featuring the character.

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14. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 13, wherein the letter and pronunciation symbol are positioned on an opposite side of the vessel from the character.

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19. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 7, wherein the learning device is a computerized learning device having a display configured to display the character, pronunciation symbol, and letter.

20. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 19, wherein the computerized learning device includes a speaker configured to emit an audio signal containing a pronunciation corresponding to the phoneme of the character, pronunciation symbol, and letter on the display.

21. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 19, wherein the

computerized learning device is configured to present an audio or visual target for the user to spell.

22. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 7, wherein the learning device is a computerized learning device configured to display the character, pronunciation symbol, and letter on a selector chosen from the group consisting of a wheel, block, vessel, card, doll, disk, and cone.

24. (Amended) The language learning system of claim 7, wherein the letter and pronunciation symbol associated with the character are printed on a body of the character.

32. (Amended) A language learning system, comprising:

- (a) at least one substrate;
- (b) at least one character disposed on said substrate and having a name formed of one or more letters of an alphabet of a language;
- (c) at least one letter of the alphabet of the language disposed on said substrate and being the same as one or more of the letters of the alphabet of the language forming said name of said character; and
- (d) at least one pronunciation symbol of the language disposed on said substrate which corresponds to the pronunciation of said at least one letter of the alphabet of the language of said system, wherein the pronunciation symbol is separate from the letter and instructs a user how to pronounce the letter as the letter is positioned in the name of the

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character.

Please add the following new claims 34-59.

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--34. A method of language instruction, comprising:

creating a plurality of characters with a first subset of associated character names, each character name being designed to teach a student a pronunciation for at least one of (a) a letter or letter combination contained within the character name and (b) a pronunciation symbol indicating a pronunciation of a letter or letters within the character name, wherein each character name within the first subset is spelled using only letters or letter combinations introduced in character names within the first subset; and

presenting the characters and/or character names to a student via one or more language learning devices.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising:

creating characters with a second subset of character names, each character name within the second subset being designed to teach a student a pronunciation for at least one of (a) a letter or letter combination contained within the character name and (b) a pronunciation symbol indicating a pronunciation of a letter or letters within the character name, wherein each character name within the second subset is spelled using only letters or letter combinations introduced in character names within the first subset or within the second subset.

36. A method for use in language instruction, the method comprising:

creating an ordered series of subsets of character names, each character name within each subset being designed to teach a student a pronunciation for at least one of (a) a letter or letter combination contained within the character name and (b) a pronunciation symbol indicating a pronunciation of a letter or letters within the character name, wherein each character name within the each subset is spelled using only letters or letter combinations introduced in character names contained within the current subset or an earlier subset.

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising:

creating a set of targets for each of the subsets of character names, each target having an associated word that is spelled using only the letter or letter combinations introduced in character names of the subset with which the target is associated, or in an earlier subset of character names;

presenting the target to the user on the language learning device.

38. A language learning system, comprising:

a language learning device configured to display one or more characters having respective character names selected from a first subset of character names, each character name in the first subset being designed to teach a student a pronunciation for at least one of (a) a letter or letter combination contained within the character name and (b) a pronunciation symbol indicating a pronunciation of a letter or letters within the character name, wherein each character name within the first subset is spelled using only letters or

letter combinations introduced in character names within the first subset;

wherein the language learning device is further configured to display a second subset of character names, each character name within the second subset being designed to teach a student a pronunciation for a letter or letter combination contained within the character name, wherein each character name within the second subset is spelled using only letters or letter combinations introduced in character names within the first subset or within the second subset.

39. The language learning system of claim 38, wherein the language learning device is further configured to display a target selected from one of a plurality of sets of targets corresponding to each of the subsets of character names, each target having an associated word that is spelled using only the letter or letter combinations introduced in the character names of the subset with which the target is associated, or in an earlier subset of character names.

40. A language learning system, comprising:

a language learning device configured to display one or more characters having respective character names selected from an ordered series of subsets of character names, each character name within each subset being designed to teach a student a pronunciation for at least one of (a) a letter or letter combination contained within the character name and (b) a pronunciation symbol indicating a pronunciation of a letter or letters within the character name, wherein each character name within the each subset is spelled using only

letters or letter combinations introduced in character names contained within the current subset or an earlier subset.

41. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device includes a wheel.

42. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the language learning device includes a plurality of character regions, each character region including a character and at least one of (a) a letter or letter combination contained within the character name and (b) a pronunciation symbol indicating a pronunciation of a letter or letters within the character name.

43. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device includes a block.

44. The language learning system of claim 43, wherein adjacent sides of the block respectively include a character and a letter or letter combination contained within the character name.

45. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device includes a vessel.

46. The language learning system of claim 45, wherein opposite sides of the vessel respectively include a character and a letter or letter combination contained within the character name.

47. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device includes a card.

48. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device includes a doll.

49. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device includes a cone-shaped selector.

50. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device includes a disk-shaped selector.

51. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device is a computerized learning device having a display configured to display a character and at least one of (a) a letter or letter combination contained within the character name and (b) a pronunciation symbol indicating a pronunciation of a letter or letters within the character name.

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52. The language learning system of claim 51, wherein the computerized learning device includes a speaker configured to emit an audio signal containing a pronunciation corresponding to the phoneme of the character and letter on the display.

53. The language learning system of claim 51, wherein the computerized learning device is configured to present an audio or visual target for the user to spell.

54. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the learning device is a computerized learning device configured to display a character and a letter or letter combination contained within the character's name, on a selector chosen from the group consisting of a wheel, block, vessel, card, doll, disk, and cone.

55. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the name of each character begins with a phoneme associated with the character.

56. The language learning system of claim 40, wherein the letter or letter combination associated with the character is printed on a body of the character.

57. The language learning system of claim 8, wherein the language learning device includes body having a selection pane through which a user may view a selected letter on a phoneme selector.